Industries Corporation (PASIC) have been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market. The export of cement has also been banned and Government's resolve to take strict measures to curb profiteering and cartelization have been announced.

Extending coffee plantations to non-traditional areas

3859. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is taking up measures to extend coffee plantations to non-traditional areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether the hilly regions are included under the said expansions;

(c) if so, which regions of Andhra Pradesh are covered under the project;

(d) what has been the proposed financial outlay earmarked for coffee development in the State;

(e) whether the measures include capacity building for all stake holders; and

(f) if so, the details of the capacity building measures and the details of stakeholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ananthagiri, Araku Valley, Dumbriguda, Hukumpeta, Peddabayalu, Manchingput, Paderu, G. Madugula, Chintappali, and G.K. Veedhi Mandals in Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh are covered under the coffee development programme.

(d) Out of Rs. 45 crore allocated for the development of coffee in Non Traditional Areas (NTAs) during the Eleventh Plan period, Rs. 40 crore is provided for Andhra Pradesh.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The capacity building measures in NTAs are mainly focused on the training and skill building of coffee growers, farm workers and resource personnel of the Agencies who are involved in coffee cultivation, by conducting on farm training, study tours, group meetings, campaigns, workshops etc.

Export of Ayurvedic medicines and natural herbs

†3860. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Ayurvedic medicines and natural herbs are highly in demand in Europe; and

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government to promote the export of said items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is greater awareness

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

about Ayurveda in several countries like Europe, Canada, USA etc. and the popularity of herbal medicine is growing;

(b) The Government have taken following steps to promote Ayurvedic and Harbal medicines in the global market:—

(i) Setting up a National Medicinal Plant Board for integrated development of medicinal plant sector.

(ii) Sending official delegations comprising trade representative to various countries to promote AYUSH drugs.

(iii) Extending support to industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products.

(iv) Relaxing labeling provisions to facilitate exports.

(v) Expanding mandatory testing facilities. Twenty-nine State Drug Testing Laboratories have been strengthened and Twenty-six Private Drug Testing Laboratories have been recognized for testing of AYUSH medicines and presence of heavy metals, microbial contamination, afloatoxin etc.

(vi) Notifying Good Manufacturing Practices.

Supply of counterfeit drugs to EU

3861. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaint from European Commission Taxation and Customs Union to the effect that India is the biggest supplier of counterfeit drugs to the European Union and if so, the details thereof including the seizure of such drugs by the said Union;

(b) what are the names of companies which had supplied counterfeit drugs which have been seized by the Union; and

(c) what action Government have taken against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir. However, it has been gathered from the Embassy of India in Brussels that in November 2006 the CEFIC (European Chemical Industry Federation), APIC (Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredients Committee) and EFCG (European Fine Chemicals Group) made a representation to Director General, Enterprise of the European Commission, where it was alleged that India and China are big manufacturers of counterfeit Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). These allegations have been strongly refuted by the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry in their individual meetings with the officials of the European Commission. In the 2nd meeting of India-European Union (EU), Joint Working Group (JWG) on Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology held on 30-31 May 2007, in New Delhi, the EU delegation informed about the concern of the Parliament of the EU regarding validity of self-certifications in the context of the resolution adopted by it concerning the testing of starting materials and combating of counterfeits. It was proposed by the EU delegation to discuss, these